

A group of us met this week with Allen Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and a number of his top aides for our regular Wednesday morning breakfast. After breakfast, Mr. Dulles took us to his conference room and described to us the organization and functions of the Central Intelligence Agency and indicated the nature of its relationship to the intelligence services of the Army, Navy, Air Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of State.

Naturally, a great deal of the work of the Central Intelligence Agency is top secret. However, one of its most vital functions is the coordination of intelligence work, particularly to produce national estimates. National estimates are the agreed view of all of the intelligence agencies on what may happen in critical areas of the world. Mr. Dulles meets with the heads of the other intelligence agencies once a week--or more often if the situation requires--to decide on the final version of the estimate which their staffs working together have drafted. The purpose of the national estimate is to inform the policy makers of the Executive Branch of the possible developments in such spots as Indo-China, Korea, etc. Upon agreement by the heads of the intelligence agencies, the estimates are sent to the interested departments and agencies starting with the National Security Council--composed of the President, Vice President, Secretaries of State and Defense, the Foreign Operations Administrator, and the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

Mr. Dulles emphasized that the whole structure of the Central Intelligence Agency and the workings of the intelligence agencies were geared to insure that all information received by the United States Government was properly assessed and evaluated--and put in the right hands--to insure that every precaution is taken to prevent another Pearl Harbor.

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